

the National Audubon Society; I am very grateful to these bodies. Dr I. Swingland and A.D. Forbes-Watson kindly read an earlier draft of this paper.

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(Received 11 May 1977)

SOME RECENT RECORDS OF PALAEARCTIC BIRDS IN KENYA AND TANZANIA ¹

Backhurst, Britton & Mann (1973) reviewed the occurrence and status of what they then considered as the less common Palaearctic migrants of Kenya and Tanzania, taking into account records up to June 1971. A number of scattered records and accounts of scarcer migrants have since appeared, mostly in *EANHS Bulletin*. The sub-committee Bird Report should now provide a means of collating and reviewing such records on a regular annual basis, and the first such report, dealing principally with material from the second half of 1976, and from 1977, is planned for publication during 1978. In the meantime we are aware of a considerable backlog of unpublished Palaearctic records which we have collated here. This list attempts to complete the updating of the paper of Backhurst *et al.* to June 1976 and includes, in addition, some exceptional records of commoner species not within the province of the 1973 paper. The following account is divided into two parts, the first of which appears here, and the second, which includes the Passerines, will appear in the September *Scopus*. All records are for Kenya unless followed by 'T' (= Tanzania). Most of the records here were submitted for inclusion in the Records Section of the *EANHS Bulletin*; a few were published (1976: 80-82) and are repeated here, preceded by an asterisk. It should be stressed that the records presented here have not been verified by the sub-committee - many were submitted without any supporting details.

¹ Compiled by members of the E.A.N.H.S. Ornithological sub-committee.

IXOBRYCHUS MINUTUS Little Bittern

A male seen at close range, Athi R., 26 Dec 75. The pale buffish sides of the face and neck indicated it was of the nominate Palaearctic race (DJP).

CICONIA NIGRA Black Stork

Regular Nairobi N.P., Dec-Mar 67-68 and 68-69, max.3 (HB); late birds there 6 Apr 69 and 10 Apr 73 (DAT), and 2 31 Dec 72 (JG); 3 on 30 Nov 74, 8 on 18 Jan 75, singles 25 Oct 75 and 21 Dec 75 (BSM). Galana R., Tsavo East, Jan-Feb 71-75 (DAT) and 8 Feb 76. Kibwezi, 1 on 16 Feb 75 (DJP); 1 Tiva R., Tsavo East, 11 Nov 75 (PL); Athi R. at Fourteen Falls, 1 on 24 Feb 74 (BSM, JKW,DW). 1 Treetops, 28 Mar 68 (DAT); 1 Naivasha, Jan 71 (HB); 1 Samburu, 4 Feb 71 (DAT); 1 Kakamega Forest, 20 Jan 75 (CFM,BSM); Karura Forest, 1 on 14 Feb 76 seen feeding on water-beetles along Ruiruaka R. (BSM).

ANAS CLYPEATA Shoveler

Hundreds on the north shore of L. Nakuru Nov-Apr during the early 1970s (many observers), numbers peaking in 73-74 when G.H. Yeoman (*per* GCB) counted 6000 on 13 Jan 74.

ANAS CRECCA Teal

Nairobi N.P.: 3, 15-21 Jan 67; 4, 31 Dec 72; 5, 14 Jan 73 (all DAT). Ngorongoro, T, 3, 14 Feb 67 (DAT); 2-4, Athi R., 12 Dec 72-4 Mar 73 (DJP); 5-6, Lake Nakuru, 17 Jan 73 (DAT).

ANAS PENELOPE Wigeon

Ngorongoro, T,: 1, 27 Feb 69; 15-20, Jan-Feb 70; 5-6, Jan-Feb 71 (all DAT). L. Lygarga, T, a few, 20 Jan 70; L. Naivasha, a few, 19 Jan 71; 25 near Nyaharuru Falls, 21 Feb 73; 30+, L. Paradise, Marsabit, 20 Jan 74 (all DAT). 100, El Molo Bay, L. Turkana, 12 Feb 76 (ADF-W); male, Aruba, 4 Mar 76 (PL). Groups of 2-10, L. Ol Bolossat, 8 Dec 74 and 2 there 27 Jan 76 (JS).

ANAS STREPERA Gadwall

L. Naivasha, 1 female on 1 Jan 74 (BSM)

AYTHYA FULIGULA Tufted Duck

30+, L. Nakuru, 19 Jan 72 (DAT); 9, Aruba, 3 Feb 72 (DAT); 1 female, Athi R., Dec 72 (JG); 3, Juja, 26 Dec 75 (GRCvS); 3, El Molo Bay, L. Turkana, 12 Feb 76 (ADF-W).

AQUILA CLANGA Spotted Eagle

An adult watched settled on mud at c.40 m, L. Nakuru, 16 Oct 71. Apart from some white marks on the rump, the entire body and head were dark purplish-brown. The bill was weaker looking than that of a Tawny Eagle *A. rapax* (DJP, JGR). Another record from L. Nakuru, 2 Dec 71 (DAT, GSK) may have referred to the same bird. An adult, L. Magadi, 23 Nov 75, perched on a low dead tree. It was blackish-brown except for white in the upper tail coverts. The head and bill appeared smaller than in a Steppe Eagle, and the flight less clumsy. The underside was all dark in flight (DJP).

AQUILA HELIACA Imperial Eagle

*One seen and photographed near Olduvai Gorge, T, 20 Jan 70 (DAT). An immature was watched together with an immature Steppe Eagle *A. rapax nipalensis* near Gilgil, 7 Mar 76 as it circled low overhead (DKR). The observer notes "...much larger wingspan than Steppe Eagle, the wings being very long and square. On the underwing the primaries and secondaries were dark brown, separated by a pale area in the inner primaries. Trailing edge of the wing had a pale, indistinct line and less of a S-shaped curve than the Steppe had. The body and underwing coverts were an even pale brown, the tail dark brown. Upperparts appeared almost completely dark brown with a small pale area on the rump." Colour slides were obtained.

AQUILA POMERINA Lesser Spotted Eagle

An adult and an immature, Amboseli, 7 Jan 74, perched with a group of Tawny

Eagles. Darker brown and smaller than the Tawnys, with more rounded harrier-like heads and weaker looking bills. The immature had a pale nape patch and spotting on the wing coverts. Both birds showed some white in the primary bases and on the rump/lower back. In soaring flight overhead, the tail was held fanned, and appeared larger and less wedge-shaped than in the Tawnys (DJP, GLC). Three-four seen along the Garissa road 120 km E. of Thika, moving in rain with Steppe Eagles, 11 Nov 74 (DAT). Much smaller size, very noticeable when perched. Backhurst *et al.* (*op. cit.*) give only one definite previous Kenya record of the species, although it has been reported recently for the country (Dowsett 1975, Campbell & Campbell 1975, Hopson & Hopson 1975), and migrates in considerable numbers to spend the winter in southern Africa.

BUTEO RUFINUS Long-legged Buzzard

One just north of Marsabit, 22 Apr 73: "Excellent views. A large buzzard with prominent, unbarred rufous tail. More slender in profile than Augur *Buteo rufofuscus*. Very light buffy underparts, no black markings on head and pale 'windows' on underwing." (HB).

CIRCUS MACROURUS Pallid Harrier

Seen at Ndutu, Serengeti, T, on the very early date of 19 Aug 72 (DAT).

HIERAAETUS PENNATUS Booted Eagle

L = light phase, D = dark phase

Ngulia, Tsavo West: 1L, 27 Nov 71; 1L, 2 Dec 72; 1L, 23 Nov 74; 1L, 1D, 26 Nov 74; 1L, 6 Dec 75; 1D, 11 Dec 75; 1D, 3 Jan 76 (all DJP); 1L, 21 Feb 75; 1L, 2 Mar 75 (DAT). Voi: 1L, 3D, moving S., 5 Jan 76 (PL,DJP); 1, Tsavo Gate, 13 Jan 73 and 1, Buchuma, 16 Jan 73 (both OWF). 1L, Central Is., L. Turkana, 22 Oct 71 (HB). 1L, Nairobi, 19 Feb 72 and another, 16 Apr 75 (DJP). 2L, Njoro, 11 Nov 73; 1L, 21 Feb 76 and 1L, 20 Mar 76 (all JS). Backhurst *et al.* (*op. cit.*) could list only eight Kenya records up to 1971. The species has undoubtedly been much overlooked in the past, particularly in its dark form.

FALCO AMURENSIS Eastern Red-footed Falcon

A male, Naivasha, 3 Dec 68 (HB). 20+, Ruaha N.P., T, 5 Dec 70 with Hobbies *F. subbuteo* and Lesser Kestrels *F. naumanni* (DAT); 1, Serengeti, T, 27 Mar 73 (DAT). A male, Kamboyo, Tsavo West, 28 Apr 74, (GCB). A male, Maungu, Tsavo East, 24 Nov 75 (PL); 25 probable + 16 definite, near Irima, Tsavo East, 25 Nov 75 (PL); 30, 10 km N. of Voi, 27 Nov 75 (PL).

FALCO CHERRUG Saker

Two, L. Naivasha, 29 Mar 75 (BSM).

FALCO CONCOLOR Sooty Falcon

8-10, Gombe Stream, T, 29 Oct 72, (ADF-W, DAT); 1, Ruaha N.P., T, 7 Dec 70 (DAT).

FALCO ELEONORAE Eleonora's Falcon

Two near Irangi Forest Station, Embu, 10 Nov 74, feeding on termites at dusk. "Both uttered a loud, harsh 'kee-kee-kee-kee-kee' in flight. Black streaking on a rufous breast clearly visible as birds swooped overhead at less than 20 feet above me. Noticeably much thicker-set than Hobby *F. subbuteo*, more like Peregrine *F. peregrinus* in shape" (DAT). See p. 44 for the first Kenya record of this species.

FALCO SUBBUTEO Hobby

Three seen at Ol Donyo Sabuk, 23 Sep 73 were exceptionally early (DAT).

CREX CREX Corncrake

One near Narok, 4 Dec 71 (DAT); singles at Ngulia, Tsavo West, 6 Dec 72, 18 Dec 72 and 15 Dec 74 (DJP). Two males collected at Dar-es-Salaam, T, as follows: 21 Apr 76, fat, 183 g, wing 135 mm, each testis 5x4 mm; 30 Apr 76, fat, 180 g, wing 135 mm, each testis 2x1 mm. Both birds in breeding plumage. These seem to be the second and third records from coastal EA, (KMH).

PORZANA PORZANA Spotted Crane

One ringed Ngulia, 6 Jan 73 (DJP); 1 ringed Kariobangi, Nairobi, 4 May 73 (DJP).

BURHINUS OEDICNEMUS Stone Curlew

*1 on burnt ground in the Serengeti, 21 Jan 71, believed to be the first record from Tanzania (DAT).

CHARADRIUS ALEXANDRINUS Kentish Plover

One, Lake Magadi, 6 Dec 75, roosting in company with Little Stints *Calidris minuta*. Similar in size to the stints but longer legged, and general colour browner. Dark upperparts, sides of head to below eye and narrow pectoral patch. Wide white forehead, light but not white supercilium and collar on hind neck. Legs dark, greyish-green (JS).

CHARADRIUS DUBIUS Little Ringed Plover

Scarcer L. Nakuru than it was in the late 1960s; several single records 71-72 and 1, 22 Dec 75 (DJP). L. Naivasha: 1, 26 Nov 73 (DJP); 2, 14 Dec 73 (DJP); 3, 13 Jan 74 (GCB); 2 (1 ringed), 2 Feb 74 (DJP). L. Bogoria: 1, 26 Oct 73 and 2, 9 Feb 74 (DJP). 2, Garissa, 2 Nov 74 (DJP); 1, Kariobangi, 25 Feb 75 (DJP); 3, Tsavo R., 25 Dec 73 (GCB).

PLUVIALIS DOMINICA Lesser Golden Plover

One, L. Nakuru, 15 Oct 72 (DJP); 2, Aruba, Tsavo East, 5 Jan 76 (DJP, PL). On both occasions it was noted that the birds were similar in body size to a female Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*. "The slow powerful wingbeats of this species contrast, to my mind, with the winnowing flight of the European Golden Plover". (DJP). These appear to be the first inland records of this species in Kenya.

PLUVIALIS SQUATAROLA Grey Plover

INLAND RECORDS: single birds at L. Magadi on 1 Sep 74 (GCB), 16 Nov 75 (DKR) and 22 Nov 75 (DJP), and at L. Nakuru on 5 Nov 67 (DJP) and 7 Oct 72 (GCB).

HAEMATOPUS OSTRALEGUS Oyster Catcher

One N. of Kilifi, 8 Jul 73 (HB); 1, L. Nakuru, 26 Sep 75 (RD).

PHALAROPUS LOBATUS Red-necked Phalarope

Two, L. Nakuru, 2 Dec 71 (DAT); 1, L. Magadi, 31 Aug 74 (GCB, CFM); a few, L. Masek, T, Jan-Feb 75 (DAT); 1 near Kendu Bay, L. Victoria, 30 Sep 75 (RB).

ARENARIA INTERPRES Turnstone

INLAND RECORDS: L. Magadi: 2 (1 ringed), 6 Oct 73 (DJP); 1, 27 Sep 75 (DJP); 1, 4 Oct 75, and two small groups, 5 Oct 75 (GCB, WPHD, DKR); 1 ringed, 12 Oct 75 and 1 seen, 23 Nov 75 (GCB, WPHD, DJP). L. Nakuru: 1, 31 Aug 69 (GCB); 1, 4 Oct 70 (GCB, CFM); up to 4, 16 Sep-14 Oct 72 (DJP, GCB).

CALIDRIS ALBA Sanderling

INLAND RECORDS: L. Magadi: a few, 27 Aug-14 Oct 72, when 5 ringed (DJP, GCB, WPHD); an adult ringed 30 Aug 75 (DJP). L. Nakuru: 1, 4 Oct 70 (GCB); up to 4, 24 Sep-4 Nov 72 (GCB, DJP). 1, Athi R. pools, 4 Oct 75 (BSM).

CALIDRIS SUBMINUTA Long-toed Stint

One caught and ringed at Naivasha, 2 Feb 74 (DJP, WPHD). The wing and tail feathers being fairly recently moulted this was presumed to be an adult bird. It was in first winter body plumage with a few breeding feathers just beginning to emerge in the upperparts. Spring tail moult was just starting with the new centre feathers growing. Measurements were: wing 94 mm, bill 18 mm, tarsus 21½ mm, centre toe (including claw) 24 mm. The weight was 20.4 g. Plumage details: feathers of upperparts and crown with large dark brown centres and broad grey-brown edges, giving a strongly mottled appearance. A pale supercilium was noticeable. Whitish below, with a few indistinct streaks on the breast. The wing pattern differed from that of a Little Stint *C. minuta* in that although a short wing bar was formed by the prominent white tips to the greater coverts, there was practically no white at the tips of the primary

coverts. The outer three pairs of tail feathers were mainly grey, with white confined to the inner edges. The legs were green. In general appearance, with its relatively long neck, small head, mottled upper parts and large feet, the bird suggested a diminutive Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*. This is the third East African record of a species which normally winters in Asia.

CALIDRIS TEMMINCKII Temminck's Stint

Regularly seen and caught at Naivasha and L. Nakuru (northern shore), mid Sept - early May 72-75, max.4 (DJP,GCB,BSM,PH); 1, Naivasha 16 Feb 76 (ADF-W). 3, L. Bogoria (1 ringed), 26/27 Oct 73 (DJP); 1, L. Magadi 2 Nov 75 (DKR); at least 1, Amboseli 25 Sep 75 (KHV).

GALLINAGO MEDIA Great Snipe

L. Naivasha, 1, 3 Dec 71 and 1, 27 Feb 73' (DAT); 1, L. Jipe, 17 Nov 74 (DAT). 1, Smart's Swamp, Limuru, 22 May 76 (BSM).

GALLINAGO MINIMA Jack Snipe

Naivasha, 1, 26 Jan 70 and another, 18 Jan 71 (DAT).

LIMICOLA FALCINELLUS Broad-billed Sandpiper

In addition to P.L. Britton's records (*EANHS Bulletin* 1976: 57) DJP gives the following Sabaki mouth sightings: 1, 13 Aug 75; 3, 14 Sep 75; 32, 16 Feb 76. A worn, first winter bird was caught and ringed at L. Nakuru, 3 Jan 75, weight 31 g, wing 109 mm (DJP,WPHD).

LIMOSA LAPPONICA Bar-tailed Godwit

There are a number of recent records of up to 5 birds at Mida, Aug-Apr. In addition, one was seen at Watamu, 13 Sep 75 (DJP). Inland, 2-3, L. Nakuru, 27 Sep 69 (DAT).

LIMOSA LIMOSA Black-tailed Godwit

Nakuru: 3, 11 and 18 Sep 71 and 1 (ringed), 26 Mar 72 (DJP). 1, Serengeti, T, 17 Sep 68 (DAT); 1, L. Paradise, Marsabit, 10 Feb 76 (ADF-W); 1, Naivasha, 16 Feb 76 (ADF-W); 1, Thika oxidation pools, 19 Jan 75 (CFM,BSM). Records from L. Turkana, where it has recently been found to occur regularly (Hopson & Hopson 1975, and other unpublished reports) are omitted here.

NUMENIUS ARQUATA Curlew

INLAND RECORDS: L. Nakuru, 1, 4 Jan 69; 2, 5 Apr 69; 2, 19 Apr 69; 1, 11 May 69; 1, 31 Aug 69; 1, 9 Nov 69; L. Magadi, 1, 22 Feb 76; 1, 7/8 Mar 76 (all GCB).

NUMENIUS PHAEOPUS Whimbrel

Naivasha, 1, 1 May 69 (GCB). Rare inland away from Lakes Turkana and Victoria.

TRINGA ERYTHROPUS Spotted Redshank

Nairobi N.P.: 4, 31 Dec 72 (JG); c.10, 2 Oct 74 (HB). L. Magadi: up to 3 between 29 Nov 72 and 30 Apr 73 (DJP); singles, 17 Nov 73 and 23 Feb 74 (DJP); 1 ringed 23 Mar 75 (GCB); singles, 21 Feb, 28 Feb and 6 Mar 76 (DJP,GCB); 12 together on small pool west of the Lake, 4 Mar 73 (DJP,WPHD). L. Nakuru: singles on 29 Jan 72, 1 Jan 74 and 22/23 Dec 75 (DJP). Smart's Swamp, Limuru, 1, 17 Jan 76 (BSM). Athi R. oxidation pools, 1, 6 Mar 76 (BSM). Tsavo East: 9 records, mostly from Aruba, max. 8 birds, 4 Dec - 17 Mar 76 (PL). Ngorongoro, T, annual Jan-Mar 70-74 (DAT). 1, 25 Sep 75, Amboseli (KHV).

TRINGA TEREK Terek Sandpiper

INLAND RECORDS: L. Nakuru: 1, 5 Sep, 26 Sep and 4 Oct 70; 1, 11 and 18 Sep 71 (GCB,PLB,DJP). L. Magadi: 1, 6 Oct 72 (DJP); 1, 19 Oct 73 (DJP); 1, 16 Nov 75 (DKR). L. Lygarja, T, 1, 20 and 29 Oct 71 (DAT). 1, Samburu, 20 Sep and 6 Nov 74 (DAT). 1, L. Jipe, 17 Nov 74 (DAT).

TRINGA TOTANUS Redshank

Mida Creek: 1, 10 Mar 73 (DAT); 4, 14 Sep 75; 6, 17 Feb 76 (all DJP). L. Magadi: 1, 27 Sep 75 (DJP); 1, 21 Feb 76; 2,29 Feb 76; 1, 6 Mar 76; 1, 1 May 76 (DJP,GCB,WPHD). L. Bogoria, 1, 9Feb 74 (DJP); 1, Nakuru, 18 Sep 75 (KHV); 1, Ngorongoro, T, 17 Oct 68 (DAT).